

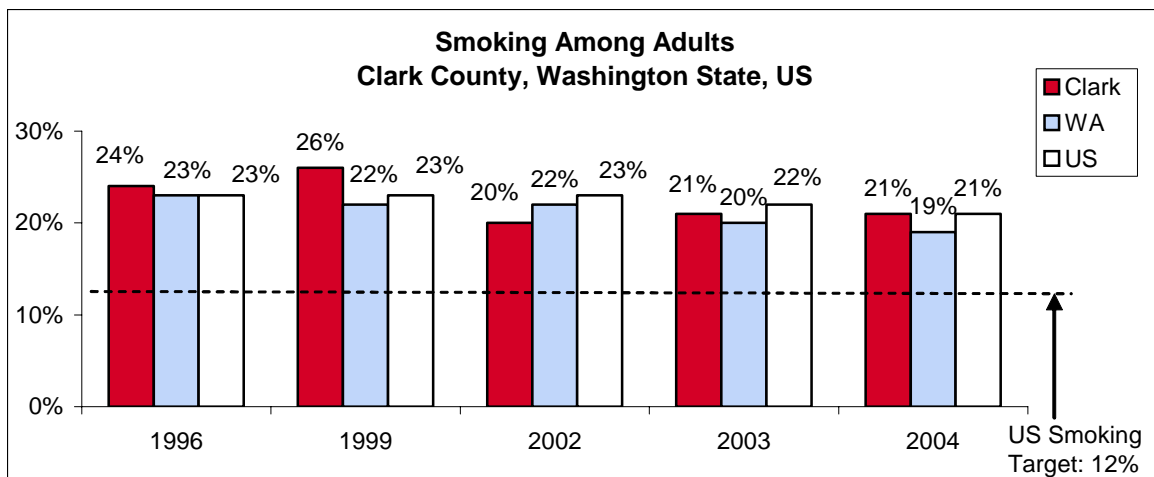
CLARK COUNTY ADULTS AND YOUTH RISK FACTORS OF TOBACCO USE

Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States. Cigarette smoking greatly increases the risk of heart disease, stroke, lung cancer, and chronic lung diseases. Secondhand smoke also contributes to heart disease and major lung conditions such as asthma in children.¹

Tobacco Use - Adults

Tobacco use prevalence is measured by levels of current cigarette smokers. Smoking among adults is defined as having smoked 100 or more cigarettes during your lifetime and currently smoking “every day” or “some days.”

One out of five adults (21%) in Clark County smoked in 2004. This is a decline from 1999 when one out of four adults (26%) smoked. Adult smoking levels in Washington State and the nation have declined slightly in recent years.^{2,3} The national Healthy People 2010 target is that no more than 12 percent of adults smoke.

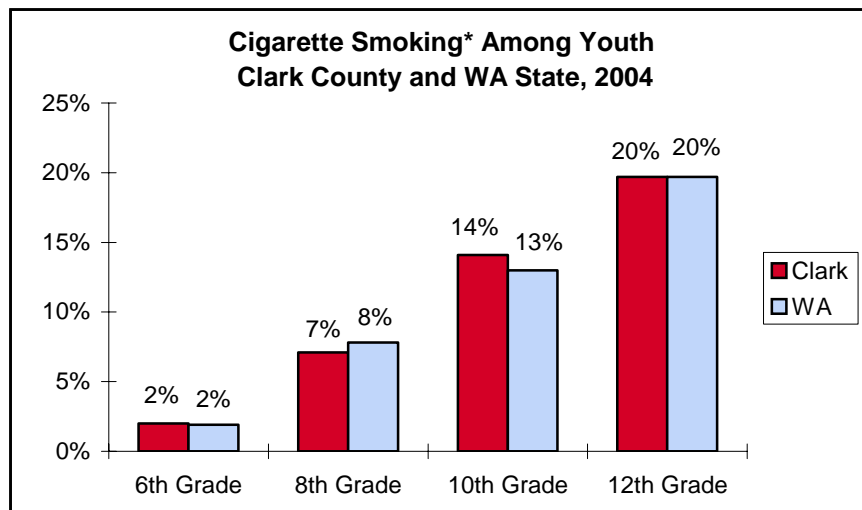


Source: Clark County, Washington State and United States, BRFSS.

Tobacco Use - Youth

Cigarette Smoking

Tobacco use among youth is defined as the percent of students who reported cigarette smoking in the past 30 days. Less than one out of ten eighth graders (7%) smoked cigarettes in 2004. This is a decline from 2002 when 10 percent of Clark County eighth graders reported smoking. By twelfth grade, one out of five students (20%) reported smoking cigarettes.⁴

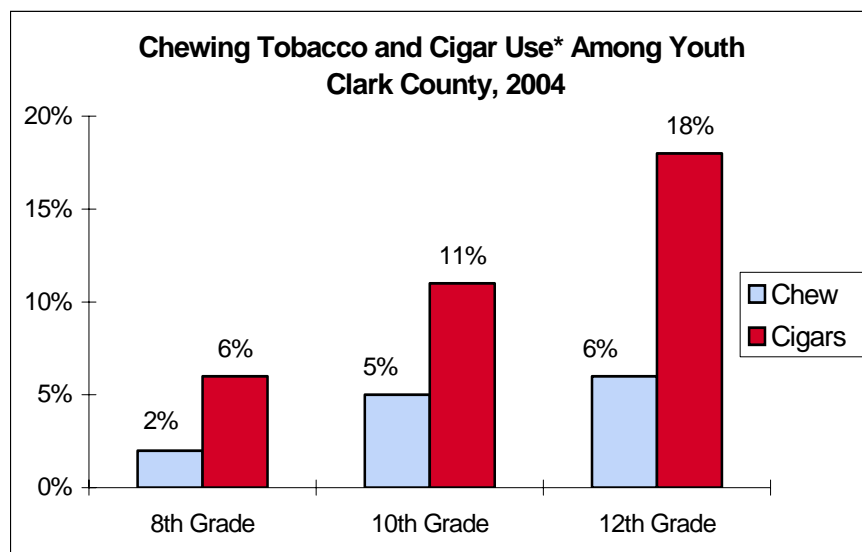


*Percent of students who report any cigarette smoking in past 30 days.

Source: WA State Healthy Youth Survey 2004 Results, March 2005

Chewing Tobacco and Cigar Smoking

Chewing tobacco and cigar smoking also contribute to youth tobacco use. Twelfth graders were three times more likely to use chewing tobacco or smoke cigars than eighth graders in 2004. Two percent of eighth graders reported using chewing tobacco compared to six percent of twelfth graders. Smoking cigars was reported by six percent of eighth graders and 18 percent of twelfth graders. The percent of eighth graders smoking cigars in 2004 is a decline from 2002 when nine percent of eighth graders in Clark County reported smoking cigars.

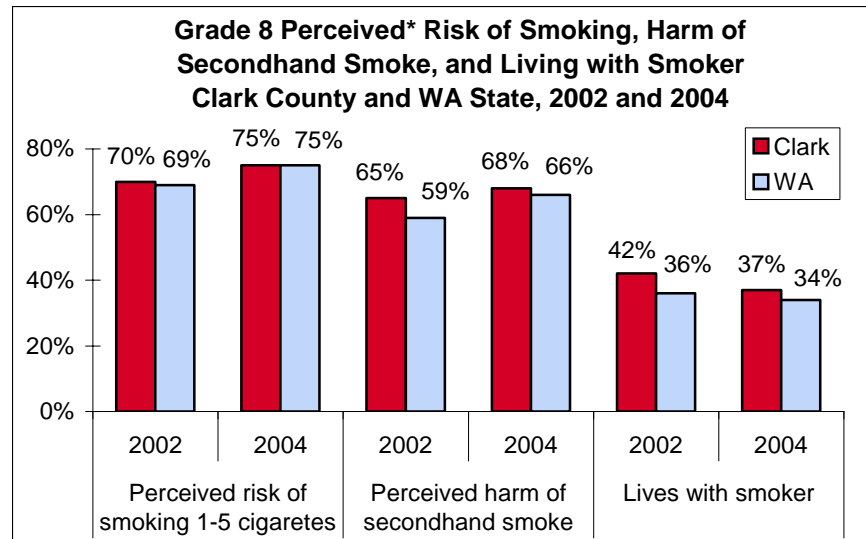


*Percent of students who report any use in past 30 days.

Source: WA State Healthy Youth Survey 2004 Results, March 2005

Secondhand Smoke

Youth perceptions of tobacco and second hand smoke are measured by perceived risk of tobacco, the harm of second hand smoke, and whether a person lives with a smoker. Slight improvements have been seen in these areas among Clark County eighth graders from 2002 to 2004.



*Definitely perceive risk or harm.

Source: WA State Healthy Youth Survey 2004 Results, March 2005

- Three out of four (75%) Clark County 8th graders in 2004 thought that young people are definitely harming themselves if they smoked between one and five cigarettes a day. This is a small increase from 70 percent in 2002.
- Two out of three (68%) 8th graders in 2004 thought that other people's cigarettes (secondhand smoke) were definitely harmful. This is a slight increase from 65 percent in 2002.
- More than one-third (37%) of 8th graders lived with a smoker in 2004; this is a decline from 42 percent in 2002.

References:

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (January 2000). *Healthy people 2010*. (Conference Edition, in Two Volumes). Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.
2. Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, Washington State Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Coordinator. (2005). [unpublished data].
3. National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. *Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System*. Data retrieved September 2005 from various pages accessed through <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/brfss/>.
4. RMC Research Corporation. (March 2005). *Washington State Healthy Youth Survey 2004*. Portland, OR. Author.



For further information please contact Maria Maribona, Health Assessment and Evaluation, Clark County Health Department, (360) 397-8495.

